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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/799,888	03/15/2004	Sergio Cirio	Q79842	8328

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WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER

TAWFIK, SAMEH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3721

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/24/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/799,888

Applicant(s)

CIRIO, SERGIO

Examiner

Sameh H. Tawfik

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7 and 9-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7 and 9-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 7, 9, 11-15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brechel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,199,350).

Brechel discloses a capping head device for application of cap to container, comprising: a casing having an end mouth designed to fit on the container so as to define a closed chamber (Figs. 4 and 5; via evacuation unit 35 fit on container 1 to define a closed chamber); a capping head disposed within said chamber (Figs. 4 and 5; via capping head 35, 42, and 43 defined in housing 37, which defines a chamber), said capping head directly contacting the caps (2) so as to apply the cap to the container (1), and means for connecting said closed chamber with a source of vacuum for the purpose of communicating said vacuum (via vacuum valve 47 and vacuum line 48) to the space inside the container before the end of application of the cap on the container (Fig. 5 and column 4, lines 41-44), wherein said casing is mounted on said capping head so as to be movable therewith towards and away from the container (Figs. 4 and 5 and column 6, lines 4-7), and that said closed chamber is defined by said casing when the casing engages the container as a result of the lowering movement of the capping head onto the container (Fig. 5).

Regarding claim 7: a capping machine comprises one or more capping head devices (Fig. 1; via few capping head devices 35 on the capping machine).

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Regarding claim 9: further comprising a seal ring provided on said end mouth of said casing to provide a seal between the casing and the container (Figs. 4 and 5; via sealing ring 39).

Regarding claims 11 and 17: the casing is being moveable relative to the container from a first position displaced from the container to a second position at which a bottom end portion of the casing contacts the container, see for example (Figs. 4-6); an exterior of the container below the casing is outside the chamber (Figs. 4-6).

Regarding claim 12: wherein the capping head (via 35, 42, and 43) is coupled to the casing (via housing 37).

Regarding claim 13: wherein said capping head applies said cap to the container when said casing is in said second position (Figs. 5 and 6).

Regarding claim 14: further comprising a seal ring provided on said bottom end portion of said casing so as to provide a seal between the casing and the container when said casing is in said second position (Figs. 4-6; via seal ring 39).

Regarding claim 15: wherein said container is a bottle (via 1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 2-5, 10, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brechel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,199,350).

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Regarding claim 2: Brechel discloses that wherein said casing is mounted on the structure of the capping head (via casing 37 mounted in the structure of the capping head 35) with mechanical means and has its end mouth made in an end wall that is elastically compliant within the casing, see for example (Figs. 3-6).

Brechel does not disclose a rolling bearing used in mounting the casing to the structure of the capping head. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made not to worry of the use of rolling bearing, as a matter of engineering design choice, since it has been held that omission of an element and its function in a combination where the remaining elements perform the same functions as before involves only routine skill in the art. In re Karlson, 136 USPQ 184.

And/or the examiner takes an official notice that such use of rolling bearing is old, well known, and available in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Brechel's machine by the use of rolling bearing as an engineering design choice, in order to smoothing the movements of the casing.

Regarding claim 3: Brechel discloses that wherein said connection means comprise valve means (via valve 49) set between the structure of the casing and the structure of the capping head (Figs. 4 and 5).

Regarding claim 4: Brechel discloses that wherein said valve means (49) comprise a valve body rigidly connected to the casing and mounted with the possibility of axial sliding with respect to a valve element, see for example (Figs. 4-6).

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Regarding claim 5: Brechel discloses that wherein said valve element (49) has two opposite operating positions, in one of which it connects a chamber communicating with the space inside the casing to an opening for connection with the source of vacuum and in the other of which it connects the aforesaid chamber to an opening for connection to a discharge (Figs. 4-6 it is inherent that the valve operate in two opposite positions).

Regarding claims 10 and 16: Brechel does not disclose that the capping head includes means for imparting rotation to said caps. However, the examiner takes an official notice that such use of rotating cap head is old, well known, and available in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Brechel's machine by the use of rotating the cap head as an engineering design choice, in order to secure the caps to the containers.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-5, 7, and 9-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sameh H. Tawfik whose telephone number is 571-272-4470. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday - Friday from 9:00 AM to 7:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi Rada can be reached on 571-272-4467. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Sameh H. Tawfik
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3721

ST.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Tawfik', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.